

Message Text

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PLEASE PASS DOL FOR GLENN HALM/ITAC

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BENC, USIRJC, IR

SUBJ: PROPOSALS FOR BLUE-COLLAR TRAINING

BY BELL AND HOWELL COMPANY

REF: (A) STATE 279756, (B) STATE 246403

1. WITH REFERENCE TO APPROACH TO UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE VETTER BY BELL & HOWELL IRANIAN DISTRIBUTOR AJIR AGAH DURING AUGUST USIRJC MEETINGS REGARDING BELL & HOWELL PROPOSAL(S) FOR BLUE-COLLAR VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL, WE NOTE THAT GERALD PERUTZ, SENIOR VP, BELL & HOWELL INTERNATIONAL, DURING NOVEMBER 1975 VISIT WAS TOLD THAT PROPOSALS RECEIVED FROM BELL & HOWELL AND OTHER COMPANIES WOULD NOT BE ACTED UPON BY MINSCIENCE BUT THAT ACTION ON PROPOSALS IN FIELD OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION WOULD IN FUTURE BE UNDER MINLABOR. OFFICE OF UNDERSECRETARY TOUSSI IN MINSCIENCE HAS RECONFIRMED THAT PROPOSAL HAS BEEN DEAD FOR OVER YEAR AND THAT MINLABOR HAS JURISDICTION.

2. PERUTZ DURING SAME VISIT, AND OTHERS SUBSEQUENTLY, MET WITH UNDERSECRETARY LABOR NASSERI AND OTHER MINLABOR OFFICIALS BUT WERE, TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, GIVEN NO DEFINITE INFORMATION.
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TION ON STATUS OF PROPOSALS. GENERAL ATMOSPHERE

SEEMED ENCOURAGING, HOWEVER, BECAUSE EXTENSIVE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED BY U.S. AND IRANIAN DELEGATIONS AT SEPTEMBER 1975 MEETING OF MANPOWER AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE OF THE JOINT COMMISSION.

3. DISCUSSIONS WITH SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS IN MINLABOR LEAD TO CONCLUSION THAT MINISTRY DOES NOT PLAN TO ACT UPON PROPOSALS FOR FIXED VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS AT ANY TIME IN NEAR FUTURE. ALTHOUGH CONCEPT OF FIXED VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WAS HIGHLY TOUTED 18-24 MONTHS AGO, NASSERI NOW SAYS THAT MINLABOR HAS CONCLUDED THAT VERY LOW LEVEL EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS DOES NOT WARRANT HIGH LEVEL OF INVESTMENT IN FIXED URBAN CENTERS WHICH ATTEMPT TO TRAIN FOR HIGH SKILL LEVEL. EMPHASIS THEREFORE HAS BEEN SHIFTED IN INITIAL PHASES OF IMPLEMENTING COUNTRY-WIDE VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM TO MOBILE TRAINING CENTERS AND SIMPLE PRE-FAB UNITS.

4. AS DEPARTMENT AND USDOC WELL AWARE, TIME FRAME FOR PROJECTS OUTLINED IN SEPTEMBER 1975 COMMUNIQUE HAS BEEN DRASTICALLY STRETCHED OUT, DUE PRIMARILY TO BUDGET RESTRAINTS BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF MANAGERIAL PROBLEMS. PROJECTS WHICH MINLABOR CURRENTLY WORKING ON ARE MOBILE VOCATIONAL UNITS FOR WHICH U.S. EXPERT WARZECHA IS DESIGNING SPECS(THIS PHASE IS ALREADY SIX MONTHS BEHIND ORIGINAL SCHEDULE) AND DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF FIFTEEN PRE-FAB TRAINING CENTERS BEING SUPPLIED BY CANADIANS UNDER THEIR TRADE AGREEMENT. IN FACT, MERSON REPORTS AND MINUTES OF AUGUST 1976 MANPOWER COMMITTEE MEETING REFLECT CHANGES IN THINKING AND STRETCHING OUT OF PROGRAMS.

5. COMMENT: ONE PROBLEM FACING PROSPECTIVE SUPPLIERS HAS BEEN FRAGMENTED NATURE OF PROGRAMS; THREE OFFICES HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN TRAINING PROJECTS WHICH OFTEN PARALLEL OR COMPETE WITH ONE
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ANOTHER--(A) MINLABOR DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING,(B) THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING BOARD(ITB) WHICH IS A SEPARATE ORGANIZATION WITH ITS OWN MANAGING DIRECTOR BUT ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE TO THE MINISTRY AND (C) A SPECIAL ILO PROJECT WORKING WITH THE MINISTRY. DISCUSSIONS SUGGEST THAT POSSIBLY FUNCTIONS NOW CARRIED ON BY MINLAB AND ITB WILL BE AMALGAMATING.

6. BELL AND HOWELL SHOULD CERTAINLY NOT EXPECT ANY ACTION DURING THE REMAINDER OF THIS IRANIAN YEAR. DEGREE AND TIMING OF INTEREST IN FUTURE WILL DEPEND ON BUDGETARY SITUATION, PROGRESS AND RE-ASSESSMENT CURRENT PROJECTS, AND POSSIBLE REORGANIZATION OF FUNCTIONS AND CHANGES OF PERSONNEL IN FIELD OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

7. ACTION SUGGESTED: IF BELL AND HOWELL PROPOSALS CAN BE ADAPTED TO MOBILE-UNIT CONCEPT, COMPANY MAY WISH TO CONSULT WITH DR. WARZECHA (THROUGH GLENN HALM, DOLITAC) ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR UPCOMING TENDER.
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